Statement

We live in a world of extraordinary scientific and technological developments. This gives us hope that we will be able to resolve our present and future problems but also presents us with the challenge of adapting to new data.

A clear desire for development can be seen in third world countries, despite a lack of resources. Meanwhile developed countries continue to grow rich from research, discoveries and inventions.

A growing gap exists between third world countries and advanced countries, with its ensuing consequences.

The international community has made a sincere effort to maintain a high rate of development in the third world, especially in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

The problem of climate change persists, despite the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) and its recommendations, which are to be implemented under strict international control.

There is also the problem of waste of all kinds, including nuclear waste, and how to dispose of it without impacting health or the local, regional and international environment.

The preservation of peace must be our constant aspiration, in order to maintain prosperity for all in a spirit of solidarity and mutual assistance, while making every effort to convey the importance of peace and to eliminate the obstacles that threaten it.

Another issue is respect for human rights and freedoms, together with gender equality, non-segregation and non-discrimination, and public participation in relevant decision-making.

The Charter of the United Nations sets out the path for us to follow and recommends the different issues we should take into consideration when addressing education, bearing in mind that any technology being used needs to be properly explained in order to prevent its misuse, that science must serve the people in a spirit of solidarity rather than domination, and that the law must be respected and enforced in order to address problems.

Indeed, the plethora of information from the media, which is sometimes contradictory, threatens to undermine our understanding of problems and make it difficult to take action. How then can we take advantage of science and technology while meeting their challenges? The purpose of education is to teach people how to behave in order to maintain social peace, how to acquire the knowledge necessary to participate in the prosperity of their countries and that of the international community, and how to develop their capacities and skills to improve their quality of life and understanding of issues.

Educators have an immense and critical task to perform: they must be able to identify that which is objectively useful from all of the information before them, while leaving aside personal preferences and doctrinal and religious opinions.